2012 Local Government Fiscal Note Survey



1. For how many legislative sessions have you used local government fiscal notes?

	Response Percent	Response Count
1	6.3%	4
2	12.5%	8
3 to 5	35.9%	23
6 to 9	20.3%	13
10 or more	25.0%	16
	answered question	64
	skipped question	0

2. Approximately how many local government fiscal notes did you read or provide information on this session?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Less than 5	34.4%	22
5 to 10	34.4%	22
10 to 30	18.8%	12
Over 30	12.5%	8
	answered question	64
	skipped question	0

3. Please describe your role. I am a:

	Response Percent	Response Count
Legislator	3.1%	2
Legislative Staff	34.4%	22
Local Government Official/Staff	6.3%	4
Association or Public Interest Group Representative	20.3%	13
State Agency Staff	21.9%	14
OFM Analyst	14.1%	9
Other (please specify)	0.0%	0
	answered question	64
	skipped question	0

4. How did you use local government fiscal notes in the course of your work? (Choose all that apply.)

	Response Percent	Response Count
To make voting decisions about the bill	4.7%	3
To make budget decisions	10.9%	7
To work on changes to the bill	42.2%	27
To prepare comments to the Legislature	51.6%	33
To respond to a legislative request for information	65.6%	42
Other (please specify)	20.3%	13
	answered question	64
	skipped question	0

5. Please select the topic areas of the local government fiscal notes you used. (Choose all that apply.)

	Respoi Perce		Response Count
Criminal Justice	28.	.1%	18
Juvenile Justice	15.	.6%	10
Taxation	23.	.4%	15
Land Use/Growth Management	20.	.3%	13
Housing	10.	.9%	7
Public Works	9.	.4%	6
Transportation	17.	.2%	11
Human Services	18.	18.8%	
Elections	14.	.1%	9
Environment	23.	23.4%	
Health	10.	.9%	7
Mental Health	18.	.8%	12
Labor/Pensions	15.	.6%	10
Energy	6.	.3%	4
Economic Development	7.	.8%	5
Government Operations	23.	.4%	15
Other (please specify)	3.	.1%	2
	answered quest	ion	64
	skipped quest	ion	0

6. What do you think are the top qualities of an excellent local government fiscal note? Please briefly describe them below.

Please briefly describe them below.	
	Response Count
	43
answered question	43
skipped question	21

7. Please describe your level of satisfaction with the Local Government Fiscal Note Program ir areas below.

	Very Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Neutral	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	N/A	Rating Average
Local government fiscal notes are consistent in format and style.	88.9% (8)	11.1% (1)	0.0%	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0%	4.89
The program responds promptly to information requests and revisions.	55.6% (5)	33.3% (3)	0.0%	11.1% (1)	0.0% (0)	0.0%	4.33
Staff is courteous and productive in responding to feedback.	100.0% (9)	0.0% (0)	0.0%	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0%	5.00
Local government fiscal notes provide solid estimates, rather than "indeterminate," whenever possible.	55.6% (5)	44.4% (4)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0%	4.56
Extrapolations of data are reliable.	88.9% (8)	11.1% (1)	0.0%	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0%	4.89
The program works effectively with other agencies on multi-agency fiscal notes.	88.9% (8)	11.1% (1)	0.0%	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0%	4.89
Staff informs you when local government fiscal notes are delayed.	77.8% (7)	0.0% (0)	11.1% (1)	11.1% (1)	0.0% (0)	0.0%	4.44
Staff helps you find technical issues with a bill.	55.6% (5)	33.3% (3)	0.0%	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	11.1% (1)	4.63
Staff understands their role in the legislative process.	100.0% (9)	0.0% (0)	0.0%	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0%	5.00
Staff understands how state and local government work.	88.9% (8)	11.1% (1)	0.0%	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0%	4.89
Staff displays a high level of understanding of subject matter.	88.9% (8)	11.1% (1)	0.0%	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0%	4.89
Staff effectively develop and clarify fiscal assumptions of bills.	88.9% (8)	11.1% (1)	0.0%	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0%	4.89

Please provide any comments below.

answered question

8. Please describe your level of satisfaction with the Local Government Fiscal Note Program ir areas below.

	Very Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Neutral	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	N/A	Rating Average
Staff understands how state and local governments work.	50.0% (8)	43.8% (7)	6.3% (1)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0%	4.44
Staff understands their role in the legislative process.	62.5% (10)	18.8% (3)	12.5% (2)	6.3% (1)	0.0% (0)	0.0%	4.38
Staff efficiently uses your time when requesting information.	43.8% (7)	31.3% (5)	0.0%	12.5% (2)	0.0% (0)	12.5% (2)	4.21
Staff is adequately prepared.	33.3% (5)	33.3% (5)	13.3% (2)	6.7% (1)	0.0% (0)	13.3% (2)	4.08
Staff is courteous.	60.0% (9)	26.7% (4)	0.0%	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	13.3% (2)	4.69
Staff displays a high level of understanding of subject matter.	37.5% (6)	37.5% (6)	18.8% (3)	6.3% (1)	0.0% (0)	0.0%	4.06

Please provide any comments below.

answered question
skipped question

9. Please describe your level of satisfaction with the Local Government Fiscal Note Program ir areas below.

	Very Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Neutral	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	N/A	Rating Average
Staff understands how state and local governments work.	61.5% (8)	30.8% (4)	7.7% (1)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0%	4.54
Staff understands their role in the legislative process.	76.9% (10)	7.7% (1)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	15.4% (2)	4.91
Staff efficiently uses your time when requesting information.	69.2% (9)	15.4% (2)	7.7% (1)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	7.7% (1)	4.67
Staff displays a high level of understanding of subject matter.	61.5% (8)	23.1% (3)	7.7% (1)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	7.7% (1)	4.58
Staff expediently responds to your information needs.	61.5% (8)	15.4% (2)	7.7% (1)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	15.4% (2)	4.64
The program works effectively with your agency on multi-agency fiscal notes.	53.8% (7)	30.8% (4)	15.4% (2)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0%	4.38
Staff helps you find technical issues with a bill.	53.8% (7)	15.4% (2)	15.4% (2)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	15.4% (2)	4.45
Staff is courteous.	84.6% (11)	7.7% (1)	0.0%	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	7.7% (1)	4.92
Staff effectively develop and clarify fiscal assumptions about bills.	61.5% (8)	15.4% (2)	15.4% (2)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	7.7% (1)	4.50

Please provide any comments below.

answered question
skipped question

10. Please describe your level of satisfaction with the Local Government Fiscal Note Program areas below.

	Very Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Neutral	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	N/A	Rating Average
Staff efficiently uses your time when asking clarifying questions about a local government fiscal note request.	33.3% (7)	9.5% (2)	19.0% (4)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	38.1% (8)	4.23
Staff informs you when local government fiscal notes are delayed.	33.3% (7)	19.0% (4)	4.8% (1)	19.0% (4)	4.8% (1)	19.0% (4)	3.71
Staff helps you find technical issues with a bill.	19.0% (4)	23.8% (5)	28.6% (6)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	28.6% (6)	3.87
Staff is courteous and productive in responding to information requests and revisions.	47.6% (10)	14.3% (3)	9.5% (2)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	28.6% (6)	4.53
Staff understands their role in the legislative process.	52.4% (11)	9.5% (2)	19.0% (4)	4.8% (1)	0.0% (0)	14.3% (3)	4.28
Staff understands how state and local governments work.	52.4% (11)	14.3% (3)	14.3% (3)	4.8% (1)	0.0% (0)	14.3% (3)	4.33
Local government fiscal notes provide solid estimates, rather than "indeterminate," whenever possible.	23.8% (5)	38.1% (8)	23.8% (5)	4.8% (1)	0.0% (0)	9.5% (2)	3.89
Extrapolations of data are reliable.	25.0% (5)	40.0% (8)	20.0%	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	15.0% (3)	4.06
Staff effectively develop and clarify fiscal assumptions about bills.	19.0% (4)	52.4% (11)	14.3% (3)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	14.3% (3)	4.06

Please provide any comments below.

answered question	
skipped question	

11. How frequently do you request a local government fiscal note when concerned about a bill's potential local impacts?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Always	40.9%	9
Usually	36.4%	8
Rarely	18.2%	4
Never	4.5%	1
N/A	0.0%	0
	answered question	22
	skipped question	42

12. How frequently do you use local government fiscal notes when they are available?

	Respons Percent	
Always	59.19	6 13
Usually	31.89	6 7
Rarely	4.59	6 1
Never	0.09	6 0
N/A	4.59	6 1
	answered questio	n 22
	skipped questio	n 42

13. How frequently do the following statements characterize your feelings about local government fiscal notes? (Choose all that apply.)

	Almost Always	Usually	Sometimes	Rarely	Almost Never	N/A	Rating Average	Response Count
Local government fiscal notes provide answers to your fiscal concerns about local impacts of proposed legislation.	18.2% (4)	50.0% (11)	22.7% (5)	0.0%	0.0%	9.1% (2)	3.95	22
Local government fiscal notes rely on inaccurate assumptions.	0.0%	0.0%	27.3% (6)	40.9% (9)	13.6% (3)	18.2% (4)	2.17	22
Local government fiscal notes overestimate the local impact of bills.	0.0%	9.1% (2)	40.9% (9)	27.3% (6)	0.0%	22.7% (5)	2.76	22
Local government fiscal notes underestimate the local impact of bills.	0.0%	4.5% (1)	36.4% (8)	36.4% (8)	0.0%	22.7% (5)	2.59	22
Local government fiscal notes display a high level of understanding of the subject matter.	13.6% (3)	45.5% (10)	18.2% (4)	9.1% (2)	0.0%	13.6% (3)	3.74	22
Local government fiscal notes provide too little information.	0.0%	18.2% (4)	31.8% (7)	27.3% (6)	13.6% (3)	9.1% (2)	2.60	22
Local government fiscal notes provide too much information.	0.0%	0.0% (0)	13.6% (3)	59.1% (13)	18.2% (4)	9.1% (2)	1.95	22

Please provide any comments below.

2

answered question	22
skipped question	42

14. Please rate local government fiscal notes in the areas below.

	Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	N/A	Rating Average	Response Count
Credibility	37.3% (22)	44.1% (26)	13.6% (8)	0.0% (0)	5.1% (3)	3.25	59
Accuracy	30.5% (18)	47.5% (28)	16.9% (10)	0.0% (0)	5.1% (3)	3.14	59
Quality of Writing	37.3% (22)	44.1% (26)	13.6% (8)	0.0% (0)	5.1% (3)	3.25	59
Statistical Information	25.4% (15)	42.4% (25)	22.0% (13)	0.0% (0)	10.2% (6)	3.04	59
Thoroughness	28.8% (17)	39.0% (23)	23.7% (14)	1.7% (1)	6.8% (4)	3.02	59
Objectivity	43.1% (25)	34.5% (20)	13.8% (8)	5.2% (3)	3.4% (2)	3.20	58
Timeliness	18.6% (11)	47.5% (28)	18.6% (11)	6.8% (4)	8.5% (5)	2.85	59
				Please provi	de any comm	nent below	10

		_
59	answered question	
5	skipped question	

15. Please describe your level of satisfaction with the Local Government Fiscal Note Program areas below.

	Very Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Neutral	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	N/A	Rating Average	R
The program's fiscal notes add value as part of the legislative process.	49.2% (29)	39.0% (23)	6.8% (4)	1.7% (1)	0.0% (0)	3.4% (2)	4.40	
The program's fiscal notes and other communication materials are professional in appearance and user-friendly.	57.6% (34)	32.2% (19)	5.1% (3)	1.7% (1)	0.0% (0)	3.4% (2)	4.51	
The program understands your individual and organizational needs.	40.7% (24)	40.7% (24)	13.6% (8)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	5.1% (3)	4.29	
How would you rate your <u>overall</u> satisfaction with the Local Government Fiscal Note Program?	50.8% (30)	33.9% (20)	6.8% (4)	3.4% (2)	0.0% (0)	5.1% (3)	4.39	

Please provide any comments below.

answered question
skipped question

16. Did you receive local government fiscal notes in a timely manner? Response Response Percent Count Yes (above 90%) 29.3% 17 Mostly (above 75%) 43.1% 25 Somewhat (above 50%) 8.6% 5 No (less than 50%) 5.2% 3 N/A 13.8% 8 answered question 58 skipped question 6

17. Are you aware of any fiscal impacts to local governments that were not addressed in one or more local government fiscal notes?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	8.6%	5
No	37.9%	22
Don't know	53.4%	31
	answered question	58
	skipped question	6

18. What fiscal impacts were not addressed?

Count	
3	
3	answered question
61	skipped question

19. If you are aware of information on these impacts, please describe below.

	Count
	1
answered question	1
skipped question	63

Response

	esponse Percent	Response Count
Yes	22.0%	11
No	28.0%	14
Don't know	50.0%	25

If yes, please list the bill number(s) or specific subject(s) and what qualities made the note(s) exceptional.

answered question 50
skipped question 14

9

3

21. Was there a specific local government fiscal note that you found needed improvement?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	4.0%	2
No	40.0%	20
Don't know	56.0%	28

If yes, please list the bill number or specific subject and what qualities could be improved in that note.

answered question 50
skipped question 14

22. Were there any high-priority bills that did not pass this session for which you would
recommend follow-up research for next session? If yes, please list the bill number(s)
and/or briefly summarize the legislative concept(s).

	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	12.0%	6
No	40.0%	20
Don't know	48.0%	24

If yes, please list the bill number(s) or specific subject(s).

9

answered question	50
skipped question	14

23. Do you see any new legislative issues on the horizon next session that we should put on our radar screen? If so, please briefly describe:

> Response Count

8

8	answered question
56	skipped question

24. May we contact you to follow up on your feedback? Response Response Percent Count Name: 100.0% 12 Email Address: 91.7% 11 Phone Number: 91.7% 11 answered question 12 skipped question 52